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Message Text

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46
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-05 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

IO-13 EB-07 OMB-01 DHA-02 ACDA-10 MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00

SY-05 OPR-02 /117 W
---------- 073196
R 221433Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 615
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 8020

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE
SUBJ: NOVEMBER 21-22 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT ADF DEPLOYMENT
TO TRIPOLI AND SIDON

1. MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED DEPLOYMENT OF ADF TO NORTH AND
SOUTH LEBANON. CITING BEIRUT RADIO BROADCAST,
AL-THAWAH NOTED NEW CONTINGENTS OF ADF TROOPS COMING FROM
DAMASCUS HAD DEPARTED MASNAA NIGHT OF NOV. 20 FOR BEIRUT
AND THEN SOUTH TO SIDON. AL-BAATH REPORTED THAT A
"MECHANIZED BRIGADE" AND SEVERAL ADJACENT VILLAGES.
MEDIA CLAIMED TROOPS WELCOMED WITH ROSES BY POPULACE.
PRESS OBSERVED THAT ADF CHARGED WITH COLLECTING HEAVY
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WEAPONS AND IN TRIPOLI WILL BE STATIONED AT ALL

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CROSSROADS, PUBLIC SQUARES, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS
AND AT PORT. IN SOUTH, ADF WILL EXTEND FROM SIDAON
TO TYRE; WILL CONTROL SIDON-NABATIZYAH-MARJAYUN
ROAD; AND WILL PROTECT ZAHRANI REFINERY, LITANI AND OTHER
ELECTRIC POWER STATIONS, AND PORTS OF SIDON AND TYRE.
AL-BAATH REPORTED TASS RELEASE DESCRIBING PROPOSAL TO
DISARM LEBANESE CITIZENRY BY PURCHASING WEAPONS WITH
FUNDS SUPPLIED BY SOME ARAB STATES AND THEN DEPOSITING
WEAPONS WITH LEBANESE ARMY WHICH WILL BE FORMED IN FUTURE.

2. MEDIA REPORTED LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH OF
PRES. SARKIS CALLING FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF COUNTRY AND
PRESERVATION OF FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM WITHIN CONTEXT OF
RETURN TO LAW AND ORDER. MEDIA NOTED THAT SARKIS PAID
TRIBUTE TO ASSISTANCE OF ADF.

3. PRES. ASAD SENT CONGRATULATORY CALBE TO SARKIS CITING
CURRENT TRANQUILLITY IN LEBANON AND COUNTRY'S QUICK
STEPS TOWARD PEACE AND SECURITY.

4. MEDIA REPORTED PRES. ASAD RECEIVED IMAM MUSA SADR
EVENING OF NOV. 20.

5. PRESS REPORTED SPEECH RALLIES AT YARMUK PALESTINIAN
CAMP IN DAMASCUS ORGANIZED BY UNIFIED PALESTINIAN
ORGANIZATION OF BAATH PARTY AND IN BEKAA ORGANIZED BY
LEBANESE BAATHISTS TO PRAISE CORECTIVE MOVEMENT AND SYRIAN
POLICY IN LEBANON.

6. MEDIA GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO VISIT OF KING
HUSSEIN NOV. 21 TO DISCUSS "PRESENT ARAB SITUATION AND
NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN ARAB ARENA," PRESUMABLY INCLUDING
LEBANON.

7. AL-BAATH EDITORIAL SUPPORTED SARKIS' APPEAL FOR
NATIONAL UNITY IN REBUILDING LEBANON AND URGED ALL
FACTIONS TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD THIS AIM.

8. COMMENT: MEDIA DESCRIPTION OF ADF DEPLOYMENT DEPICTS
IT AS WELL-RECEIVED BY LOCAL INHABITANTS AND AS FURTHER
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SUCCESS FOLLOWING OPENING OF BEIRUT-DAMASCUS ROAD AND
SUCCESSFUL ENTRANCE INTO HEART OF BEIRUT. FOCUS NOW
APPARENTLY SHIFTING IN MEDIA REPORTING FROM EXTENSION OF
ADF TO EFFORTS BY TROOPS TO DISARM COMBATANTS.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADF INTENTION TO MOVE SOUTHWARD TO TYRE
AND ALSO ALONG SIDON-NABATIYAH-MARJAYUN AXIS PUTS ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES ON NOTICE THAT THESE MOVES WILL SOON
BE TAKEN. IT ALSO MAY INDICATE THAT THESE POINTS ARE AS

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FAR SOUTH AS ADF INTENDS TO GO IN THIS CURRENT PHASE
OF ITS OPERATIONS.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC08020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: TEXT ALSO ON MICROFILM
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760458-1082, P760187-2151
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761127/aaaaawon.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 AUG 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOVEMBER 21-22 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT ADF DEPLOYMENT TO TRIPOLI AND SIDON
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SOPN, SY, LE, XF, AL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006